

### **REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

The Office Action dated May 6, 2004, has been carefully reviewed in light of the Examiner's helpful comments and suggestions.

As an initial matter, Applicant's representatives would like to thank the Examiner for an early indication of allowable subject matter in claim 2.

By the above amendments, the specification has been amended to address the objections raised by the Examiner. No new matter has been added.

As a result of the Office Action, claim 2 is indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form. However, claims 1 and 3-6 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Takamori.

By the above amendments, claim 1 has been amended to include substantially all the limitations of claim 2, and claim 2 has been canceled without prejudice. Also, new claim 7 has been added. Therefore, claim 1 is now believed to be allowable over prior art.

Claims 3-7 are dependent from claim 1 and are therefore allowable for the same reasons as claim 1.

The prior art references made of record by the Examiner have each been considered but are not believed to obviate against the allowability of the claims as amended. It is noted that none of these references have been specifically applied by the Examiner against any of the original claims.

Each issue raised in the Office Action dated May 6, 2004, has been addressed and it is believed that claims 1 and 3-7 are in condition for allowance. Wherefore, Applicant respectfully requests a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in

this case.

Respectfully submitted,  
DENNISON, SCHULTZ  
DOUGHERTY & MACDONALD

By: 

Amir H. Behnia  
Reg. No. 50,215  
(703) 837-9600 Ext. 16